

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,903,705 to Yonemitsu et al. ("Yonemitsu").

The Specification is objected to for informalities.

The Title of the Invention is objected to.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicant has amended the Title and Specification.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 3.

Applicant has added new claims 5-10.

Claims 1-10 are pending.

The Objection to the Title of the Invention and the Specification

The Title of the Invention is objected to as allegedly not being descriptive. Applicant has amended the Title of the Invention, and respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

The Specification is objected to for informalities. Applicant has amended the specification to address the Examiner's concerns, and requests that the objection be withdrawn.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yonemitsu. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), of claims 1-4, is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 recites a recording medium reproduction apparatus for reproducing a recording medium in which recorded data and recording medium side reproduction restriction information is recorded. The apparatus includes apparatus side reproduction restriction information. The apparatus includes

control means which outputs and displays the recording medium side reproduction restriction information when reproduction is stopped based on a comparison of the apparatus side reproduction restriction information with the recording medium side reproduction restriction information. Therefore, a user can understand at a glance the reason why reproduction is stopped. The user's understanding at a glance can be very convenient, for example, when there is no description relating to the recording medium side reproduction restriction information on the recording medium or the package of the recording medium. Support for these features is provided at, for example, paragraphs 0034 and 0042 of Applicant's specification as originally filed.

In contrast, as described at col. 6, ll. 48-63, of Yonemitsu, the control circuit 34 reads the control code (disc territory code) and the inner territory code. The control circuit 34 compares the disc territory code to the inner territory code and allows the encoded data to be outputted from the demultiplexer 32 to the decoder 33 if the disc territory code includes the inner territory code. If the disc territory code does not include the inner territory code, the control unit 34 does not allow the encoded data to be outputted from the demultiplexer 32 to the decoder 33. Thus, the apparatus of Yonemitsu merely allows or does not allow data to be outputted based on a comparison of a disc territory code and an inner territory code. It is submitted that Yonemitsu does not show at least the feature of control means which outputs and displays the recording medium side reproduction restriction information when reproduction is stopped, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1 is patentable.

Claim 3 recites a recording medium reproduction apparatus for reproducing a recording medium in which recorded data and recording medium side reproduction restriction information

is recorded. The apparatus includes apparatus side reproduction restriction information. The apparatus includes a control member which outputs and displays the recording medium side reproduction restriction information when reproduction is stopped based on a comparison of the apparatus side reproduction restriction information with the recording medium side reproduction restriction information. For the reasons described above, it is submitted that Yonemitsu does not show at least the feature of a control member which outputs and displays the recording medium side reproduction restriction information when reproduction is stopped, as recited in claim 3. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 3 is patentable as well.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1, and claim 4 depends from claim 3. The dependent claims recite the same combination of allowable features recited in the independent claims, as well as additional features that define over the prior art. Accordingly, it is requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), of claims 1-4, be withdrawn, and the claims allowed.

Applicant has added new claims 5-10. Support for new claims 5-10 is provided at, for example, paragraphs 0022 and 0037, and Figs. 1-2, of Applicant's specification as originally filed. Claims 5-7 ultimately depend from claim 1, and claims 8-10 ultimately depend from claim 3. The dependent claims are allowable at least for the reasons described above with respect to claims 1 and 3. Examination of new claims 5-10 is requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

Dated: February 24, 2004

By: 

Peter J. Sistare

Registration No. 48,183

CUSTOMER NO. 009629
MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
202.739.3000